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AN NIDA

A GUARANTEED INVESTMENT

NEVER SHALL YOU ATTAIN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS UNLESS
YOU SPEND OUT OF THAT WHICH YOU LOVE

THE HOLY QURAN (3:93)

AN-NIDA MAGAZINE

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TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

2 QURAN & HADITH

4 EXCERPT OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH (AS)

5 GUIDANCE FROM HUZOOR (AA)

6 FINANCIAL SACRIFICES

14 SPIRITUAL TREASURES: PART II

16 HE WHO WALKS TOWARDS ME I RUSH TOWARDS HIM

QURAN

لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتّٰى تُنْفِقُوْا مِمَّا تُحِبُّوْنَ

Never shall you attain to righteousness unless
you spend out of that which you love

The Holy Quran [3:93]

HADITH

"مَنْ تَصَدَّقَ بِعَدْلِ تَمْرَةٍ مِنْ كَسْبٍ طَيِّبٍ۔ وَلَا يَقْبَلُ اللَّهُ
إِلَّا الطَّيِّبَ۔ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَتَقَبَّلُهَا بِيَمِينِهِ، ثُمَّ يُرَبِّيهَا لِصَاحِبِهِ
كَمَا يُرَبِّي أَحَدُكُمْ فَلُوَّهُ حَتَّى تَكُونَ مِثْلَ الْجَبَلِ"

"If one give in charity what equals one date-fruit from the honestly earned money and Allah accepts only the honestly earned money –Allah takes it in His right (hand) and then enlarges its reward for that person (who has given it), as anyone of you brings up his baby horse, so much s that it becomes as big as a mountain”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 1410]

EXCERPT OF
THE PROMISED MESSIAH(AS)

“A person who can afford even a penny ought to donate that penny towards the expenditure of the community on a monthly basis. Those who can afford to give a rupee per month should donate a rupee every month… It is better to consistently contribute every month even if only a small amount, than to donate after long intervals according to one’s whim. Every person’s sincerity is determined by their service. Dear ones! The time has come to serve religion and assist its cause. Prize this opportunity—it shall not come again.”

"I believe that faith and miserliness cannot exist in the same heart. One who believes in Allah with a sincere heart, does not only believe himself to be in possession of that which is locked in his safe, rather he believes all the treasures of Allah Almighty to be his; and thus miserliness is as removed from him as darkness is removed from light…"

— THE PROMISED MESSIAH(AS)

NOAH’S ARK - AN INVITATION TO FAITH PG. 134

GUIDANCE FROM HUZOOR (ATBA)

"...the pious and righteous ones, who have the love of the faith in their hearts, and whose incomes are pure, spend out of their pure incomes and try their best that no one should know about what they have spent. Allah Almighty greatly reveres such people."

— HUZOOR (ATBA)

FRIDAY SERMON, JANUARY 9, 2004.

FINANCIAL SACRIFICES

THE KEYS TO ESCAPE

Daanish Malik

THE KEYS

FINANCIAL SACRIFICE

TO ESCAPE

Born into the world as your co-workers shed their blood, sweat and tears to make a living, you have access to the key out of this prison. Do you realize how lucky you are? As the rest of the world chases the riches of this world, you being an Ahmadi Muslim have something which can give you both this world and the next. What is this secret?

God Almighty warned us about this vicious cycle. He describes, “Mutual rivalry in seeking worldly increase diverts you from God. Till you reach the graves.” (102:2-3) God already told us about the rat race, ‘the matrix’ we live in. Spending our entire lives chasing after the spoils of this world, till our final breaths. So what's the key to escape from this mental prison? “And spend for the cause of Allah, and cast not yourselves into ruin with your own hands, and do good; surely, Allah loves those who do good.” (2:196)

By spending in the way of Allah you can save yourself from ruin. What does spending in the way of Allah mean? Spending money on the needy, fulfilling your chandas, donating for the propagation of Islam. God goes as far as to say that he loves people like you. He loves those who take care of his creation, who spend money in the cause of faith.

When Qaid sb approaches you to make donations, would you want to lose this opportunity of saving yourself from ruin? From witnessing God's love? Allah asks us,

"Who is it that will lend Allah a goodly loan that He may multiply it for him manifold? And Allah receives and enlarges, and to Him shall you be made to return." (2:146). God will take care of those who sacrifice their hard earned wealth in His way. He will give them back more than what they sacrificed. This is a divine promise for everyone who truly believes. And yes, this promise is often fulfilled in this very life. If you have the courage to trust Allah when you are most vulnerable, He will reward you in ways you couldn't even imagine.

Just a few years ago, brother Abdur Rahman from Gambia was struggling to pay for his children's schooling fees when he was approached to make a financial sacrifice. He was like many of us in a tough situation at the time. Yet he immediately donated 250 Gambian dalasi trusting that Allah would take care of him. After one week, God blessed him with a job with an increased salary of 5000 dalasi. Not only were his child's fees fulfilled but even others. (Friday Sermon, January 24, 2020)

Ask Mubarak Munir Sahib of Burkina Faso about how God fulfills His promise. Once, both of his children were very sick and despite treatment saw no improvement in their health. When the local Mua'lim reached out to him for donations, he made a great sacrifice according to his means and prayed for his children's recovery. Within a few days, one child was completely cured and the other was much improved. (Friday Sermon, November 9, 2018)

He took that step towards God, put his trust in Him, and let the monsoon of blessings pour forth. He saw the promised multiplication of the loan return.

These occurrences are not something which occur in far off lands. They happen here in Canada too. A few years ago, a man in Canada pledged to donate $1000 to Tehrik e Jadid. As the end of the year approached, financial troubles kept growing. He couldn't find a job. The local finance secretary visited his house a week before the year ended. Although the family did not have anything to give, they refused to let the secretary leave with their promise unfulfilled.

So they scraped together $1000 from their savings account. Due to their sincerity and loyalty, within a week, the husband found a job which paid $7000 a month.

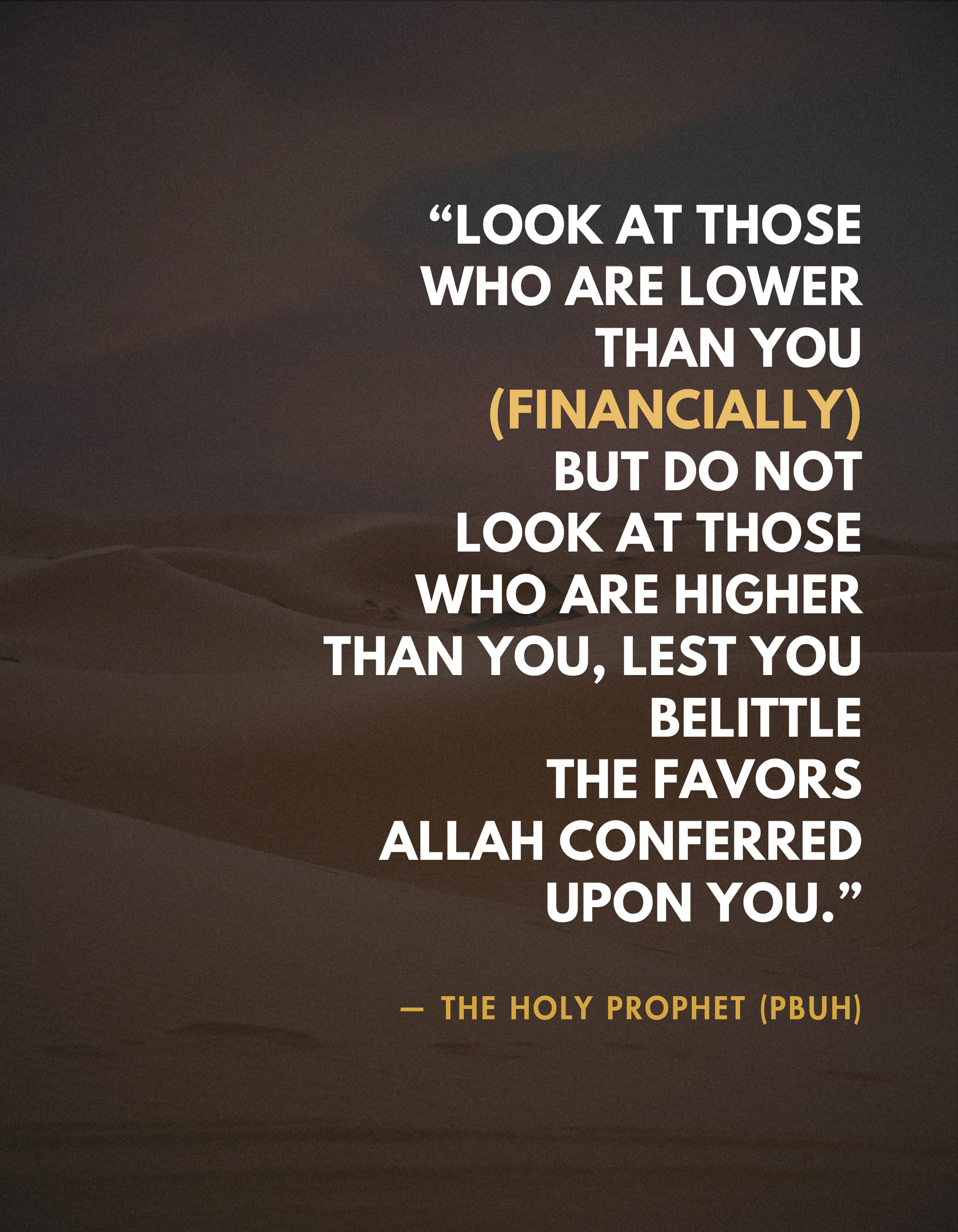
(Friday Sermon, November 9, 2018)

In this job market where employment is at a record high, it can seem difficult to answer Qaid sahib's call to give the chanda or to participate in Waqf e Jadid, however this is where the blessing lies. If giving chanda was easy, it wouldn't be a financial sacrifice. The blessing is in the sacrifice. In giving that which we hold dearest. That's why it's a means of attaining God's love. The Promised Messiah (as) explains, “Happy are those who care not for pain in order to attain His pleasure, for it is only after temporary suffering that the believer is granted the light of eternal joy and everlasting comfort." (Tafisr Hazrat Masih e Maud, vol 2, p 131)

The companions of the Holy Prophet understood this when they answered the call of the Holy Prophet to donate for the cause of Islam. They left their homes empty, donating everything they owned for God. Pioneer members of our community understood this when they answered the call to donate funds to build the Fazl Mosque in London and women began to literally take their jewelry off in the midst of the speech and men considered selling their businesses. Those were the fortunate among us to witness the love of God, to witness His promises fulfilled.

We are but travelers in this transient world. Alexander the Great, one of the greatest conquerors who amassed the world and had literally billions of dollars in wealth, realized this in his final moments. It is narrated that in his will he made a few requests.

One among them was that the path to his grave be laid with treasures. Why? So that the onlookers saw that although he spent his life chasing the treasures of this world, he had to leave it behind. It took Alexander a lifetime to realize this. Don’t repeat the same mistake and realize when it’s too late.



“LOOK AT THOSE WHO ARE LOWER THAN YOU (FINANCIALLY) BUT DO NOT LOOK AT THOSE WHO ARE HIGHER THAN YOU, LEST YOU BELITTLE THE FAVORS ALLAH CONFERRED UPON YOU.”

— THE HOLY PROPHET (PBUH)

SPIRITUAL TREASURES

PART II

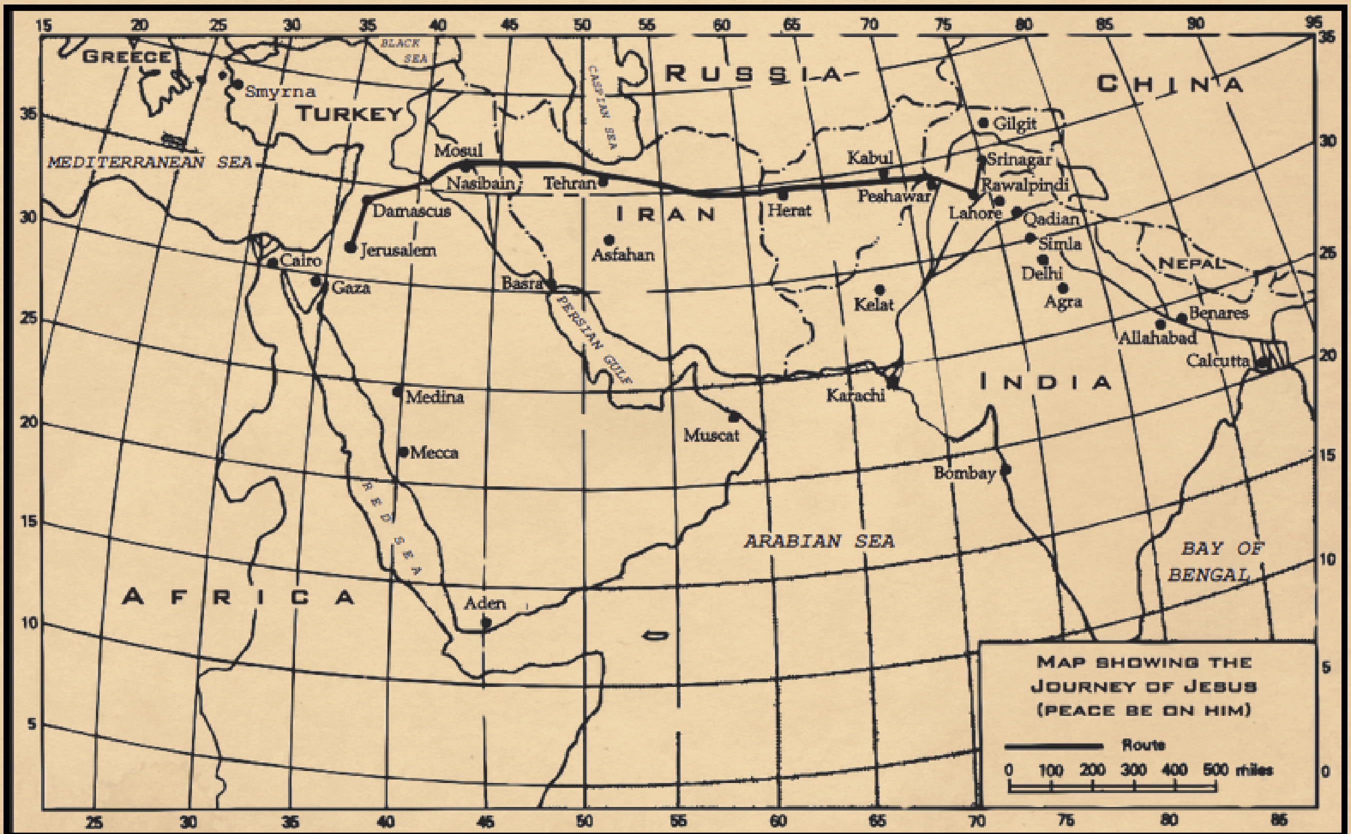
An introduction to the works of
The Promised Messiah (as)

Jesus in India

In Jesus in India, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) addresses one of the most perplexing questions ever posed to theologians: What happened to Jesus (as)? Did he die on the cross? Where did he go? For centuries, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and their many denominations have offered conflicting narratives.

In this remarkable composition, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) draws upon secular, biblical, Buddhist, and Islamic sources to demonstrate that Jesus (as) did not suffer an accursed death on the cross. Instead, he survived and went on to live a long life, fulfilling his mission as the Messiah—a shepherd to the lost twelve tribes of Israel. He (as) establishes that only two of the twelve tribes remained in Israel, while the rest were dispersed across Asia, from Jerusalem to Srinagar, India, where Jesus (as) spent his final moments.

Moreover, Hazrat Masih Maud (as) identifies Jesus's tomb in Srinagar, India. The local tradition attributes this tomb to a man named 'Yuz Asaf,' whom Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) conclusively proves to be Jesus, based on the oral history of Kashmir


GREECE
BLACK SEA
Smyrna
TURKEY
RUSSIA
CHINA
CASPIAN SEA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Mosul
Nasibain
Tehran
Damascus
Jerusalem
IRAN
Herat
Kabul
Peshawar
Gilgit
Srinagar
Rawalpindi
Lahore
Qadian
Simla
Delhi
Agra
Asfahan
Cairo
Gaza
Basra
PERSIAN GULF
Kelat
NEPAL
Benares
Allahabad
Calcutta
Karachi
INDIA
Medina
Mecca
Muscat
Bombay
RED SEA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
AFRICA
Aden
MAP SHOWING THE JOURNEY OF JESUS (PEACE BE ON HIM)
Route
0 100 200 300 400 500 miles

Map of Jesus's Travels - (pg 78, Jesus in India)

HE WHO WALKS TOWARDS ME I RUSH TOWARDS HIM

WRITTEN BY RAIYAN PAL

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH...

مَنْ أَتَانِي يَمْشِي أَتَيْتُهُ هَرْوَلَةً

“He who walks towards Me, I rush towards him” (Sahih Muslim)

Just as a miner might tirelessly dig for days, only to give up mere inches from uncovering a gold mine, a devoted seeker of God may struggle with all their might, only to abandon their quest just before the fruits of their labor mature in the form of God revealing Himself in a profound and transformative way.

That is why it is essential to obey
this command of the Holy Quran:

اسْتَعِيْنُوْا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلٰوةِ

“Seek help with patience and prayer” (Al-Baqarah:46)

Undoubtedly, prayer is the most essential catalyst in the search for God in this godforsaken world, and the Holy Quran has shed light on a vital quality of a true worshipper:

الَّذِيْنَ هُمْ فِيْ صَلَاتِهِمْ خٰشِعُوْنَ

“Those who are humble in their prayers” (Al-Mu’minun:3).

However, at times one bows down in prostration to pray to the Almighty, but their minds are unable to conjure up the appropriate words to utter at that time. Addressing this, Hazrat Musleh Maud (peace be on him) has beautifully taught a prayer that a true seeker of God should recite in his book Ten Proofs of the Existence of God: "O God, if indeed You exist and if, as those who believe in You say, that You are possessed of infinite power---then have mercy on me and guide me to Yourself, and fill my heart with faith and belief so that I may not be left deprived" (page 44)

It is these words that, if conjured from the heart and not merely from the lips, will bring one’s prayer to fruition. This is yet another prerequisite of striving in faith: not just claiming to be---the helpers of Allah---by tongue, but also affirming one’s belief through performing good deeds and worship. We are also fortunate in this day and age to have a practical, living example of how to establish and excel in prayer in the personage of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his helper), the Imam of the time. If we desire to pay heed to the words of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and find that Dear One, it is only logical to pay heed to the guidance of the direct representative of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) himself. In a Friday Sermon on December 8, 2017, Beloved Huzoor (aba) stated the following regarding the current condition of the masses:

> “IN SOME RELIGIONS, PEOPLE MAKE PHYSICAL GODDESSES AND IDOLS, BUT SOME PEOPLE TAKE WORLDLY OBJECTS, SUCH AS CHILDREN, POWER, AND AUTHORITY, AS PARTNERS WITH GOD ALMIGHTY...THUS, IT IS THE DUTY OF A BELIEVER TO WORRY ABOUT HIS STATE IN THE HEREAFTER AND ATTAINING GOD ALMIGHTY’S LOVE, INSTEAD OF BEING ENGROSSED IN THE CONCERNS OF THE WORLD.”

These ‘idols’ only serve to cloud one’s spiritual vision and disrupt us from achieving our purpose, which is the worship of God. One of the most destructive ‘idols’ that has held a tight grip on many individuals’ lives since time immemorial is the human ego i.e. pride. Just like one who attempts to climb a mountain to its summit whilst carrying a massive boulder on one’s back but has great difficulty doing so, pride is like a ‘boulder’ that hinders one from reaching one’s spiritual summit i.e. the threshold of God. Until one abandons that boulder and relieves oneself of that heavy burden, one will not be able to reach the apex.

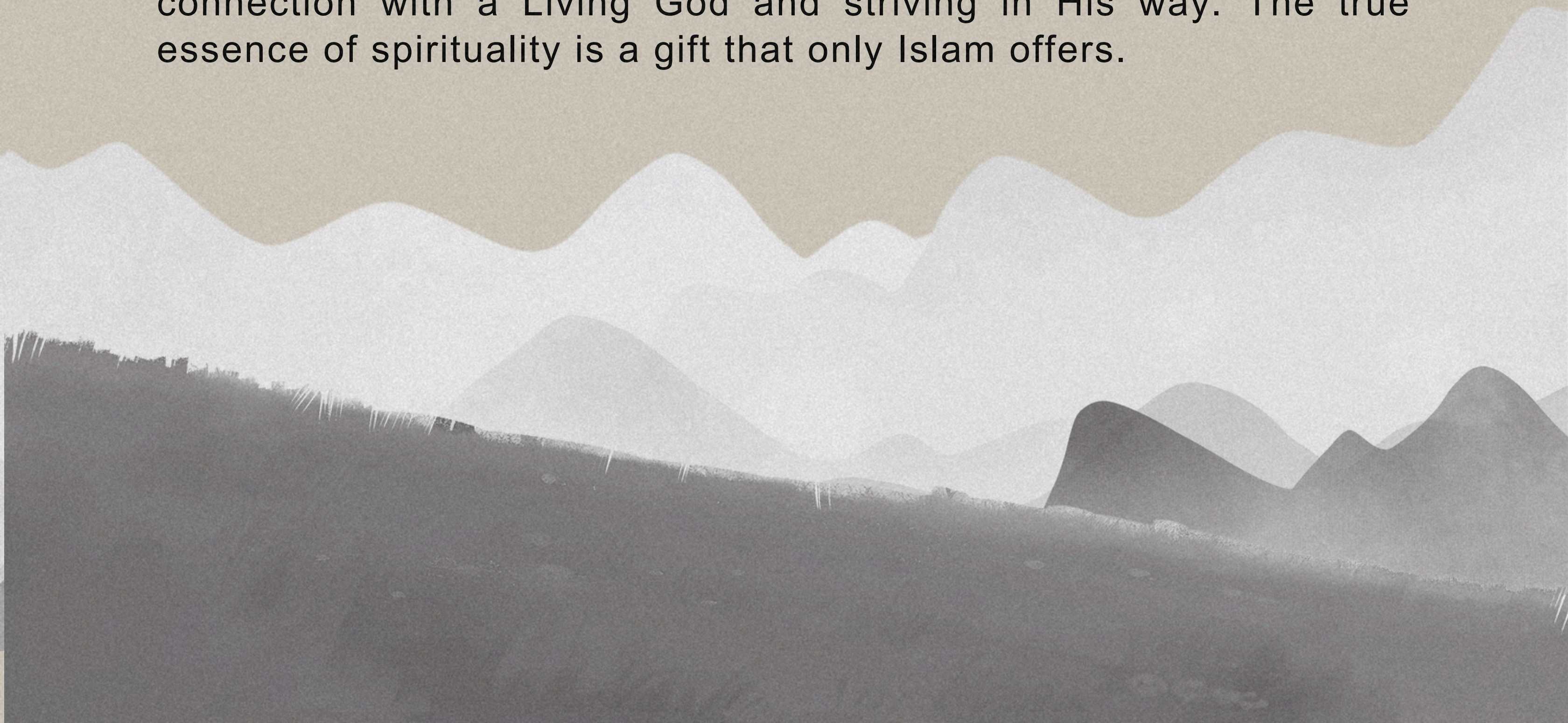
Therefore, discarding pride and adopting humility is of utmost importance, as the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) has stated:

تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ "

“No one humbles himself for Allah’s sake except that Allah raises his status” (Sahih Muslim).

The ‘recipe’ to find God that is posed by Islam is indeed of the highest calibre, but oftentimes it is objected that perhaps other religions propose a simpler, and therefore more effective, path to God. For example, in the Bible we find the essence of the purpose of life to be that “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

However, mere profession by tongue and mere belief that a man was raised from the dead leaves no room for establishing a true connection with a Living God and striving in His way. The true essence of spirituality is a gift that only Islam offers.



Islam focuses on observing our inner condition and then, through prayer and steadfastness, purifying ourselves in readiness to serve God. The Islamic mystic and poet Rumi has beautifully stated, “I searched for God and found only myself. I searched for myself and found only God.” This is the ‘stooping to dust’ that the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) talks about---to acknowledge that one’s human existence is a mere speck in the grand court of God. This is the key to unlock the treasure of God’s love---this is the ultimate ‘recipe’ to find that Dear one, Allah the Almighty.